

The Sudbury Assabet and Concord Rivers Wild and Scenic River

Corridor Description

Designated in 1999, the Sudbury Assabet and Concord River (SuAsCo) Wild and Scenic sections includes corridors that stretch for 29 miles along the Sudbury River, Concord River and Assabet River (see map). The corridor width is 0.25 miles wide as determined by the Federal Wild and Scenic River Act (P.L 90-542 as amended.).

The designated section includes:

- 16.6 miles of the Sudbury River -Framingham (below Danforth Street Bridge), Wayland, Sudbury, Lincoln and Concord
- 4.4 miles of the Assabet River –Concord (1000 feet below the Damon Mill Dam in West Concord to confluence with the Sudbury and Concord Rivers)
- 8 miles of the Concord River -Concord, Bedford and Billerica (Upstream of the Route 3 Bridge)

Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the Concord River

(Note: the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act [U.S.C. 1271-1287] has identified the following "outstandingly remarkable values" as applying to the Sudbury Assabet and Concord Rivers.)

- Ecology
- Archeology and History
- Scenic
- Recreation
- Literary resources

Background

In 1968, the United States Congress established a National Wild and Scenic Rivers system to protect outstanding rivers from the harmful effects of new federal projects such as dams, hydroelectric facilities, bank stabilization and bridges. To be considered "Wild and Scenic" a river must have at least one "outstandingly remarkable" natural, cultural or recreational value pursuant to federal law (Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 16 U.S.C. 1271-1287).

In 1999, under H.R. 193, the river sections were designated as part of the National Wild and Scenic River program. This followed several years of study by a study committee comprised of representatives from the 8 towns along the proposed Wild and Scenic River corridor, from the Commonwealth, from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Organization for the Assabet River (OAR), the Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) and staffed by the National Park Service. Following votes by the Study Committee and all

eight of the communities at their Town Meetings, Congress amended the Wild and Scenic River Act to include the sections of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers.

As part of the process, the National Park Service and the Study Committee developed the "River Conservation Plan" to manage the river. A River Stewardship Council with membership from each of the eight towns, the Commonwealth, USFWS, NPS, SVT and OAR, coordinates conservation of the 29-mile Wild and Scenic segment. The Council functions as an official advisory committee to the National Park Service on issues relating to this segment. The Council raises awareness of the rivers and facilitates efforts to preserve and improve river resources. For more information about the Council visit its web site at www.sudbury-assabet-concord.org or call 617-223-5225.

Resources on these rivers include extensive aquatic and riparian habitat for abundant and diverse plants and animals, wetlands associated with the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, vernal pools, rare and endangered species, recreation, varied scenery, prehistoric sites, sites associated with the Revolutionary War, and literary values associated with Thoreau, Emerson, Hawthorn.

SUASCO - Wild & Scenic River



Legend

- Wild & Scenic SUASCO River Designated Segments
- Municipalities
- 1/4 Mile Buffer

